

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/796,777

Examiner

Anand U. Desai, Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

PIRHONEN ET AL.

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 15, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,6,10,12,13,21,24 and 28-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Amendment filed on August 15, 2006. Claims 7-9, and 25-27 have been cancelled. New claim 36 has been added. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12-14, 21, 24, and 28-36 are currently pending and are under examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John P. Iwanicki on October 20, 2006.

Examiner's amendment to the claims:

14. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended). An ~~apparatus comprising an~~ implant having a surface and a bone grafting material coated on said surface,

wherein the bone grafting material comprises a carrier of porous ceramic or glass ceramic or glass, and at least one pyrrolidone, wherein the pyrrolidone is selected from the group consisting of 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP), 1-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone (NEP), 2-pyrrolidone (PB), and 1-cyclohexyl-2-pyrrolidone (CP).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 21, 24, and 28-36 are allowable.

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4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Weber, F. discloses a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a pyrrolidone, wherein the pyrrolidone is selected from the group consisting of 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, 2-pyrrolidone, and 1-cyclohexyl-2-pyrrolidone. Weber, F. describes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to include bioglass [0046], and the pharmaceutical composition in the form of an implant [0049]. The specification has been amended to disclose the names of a joint research agreement in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 103(c), so Weber does not qualify as prior art, and shall not preclude patentability.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand U. Desai, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr can be reached on (517) 272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 23, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. D. Smith'.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert A. Wax'.

ROBERT A. WAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER